

Policy No. 27: Acquiring Rights of Way

The department will acquire right of way across private or other public lands to department-managed forest land when this access is needed to increase the value of trust assets or for management purposes. The department will acquire these rights of ways by gift, purchase, exchange, condemnation or road use agreement. Permanent, public access rights are preferred.

Policy No. 28: Developing and Maintaining Roads

The department will develop and maintain a road system which integrates management needs and controls effects on the forest environment.

Policy No. 29: Recreation on State Forest Lands

The department will allow recreation on state forest land when compatible with the objectives of the Forest Resource Plan. As part of its efforts, the department will continue to comply with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

2.14.3 Silviculture

There are five silviculture policies. A discussion of the alternatives is contained in Chapter 5. For more background information, see Chapter 5 of the Forest Resource Plan.

Policy No. 30: Silviculture Activities

The department will plan and implement silvicultural activities to meet trust responsibilities. In cases warranting special attention, the department will accept a reduction in current income or return on investment when the department determines it is necessary to provide extra protection for soil, water, wildlife, fish habitat and other public resources.

Policy No. 31: Harvest and Reforestation Methods

The department will select the harvest method which produces the best mix of current and long-term income, achieves reforestation objectives and integrates nontimber resource objectives identified in the Forest Resource Plan. Reforestation objectives must ensure adequate restocking, produce acceptable benefits to the trusts and protect public resources.

#### Policy No. 32: Green-up of Harvest Units

The department will reduce the impacts of clearcutting and certain even-aged silvicultural systems by generally limiting the size of harvest areas to a maximum of 100 acres, requiring "green-up" of adjacent areas before harvesting timber and employing other techniques to blend harvested areas into the landscape.

#### Policy No. 33: Control of Competing Vegetation

To prevent domination of crop trees by other vegetation, the department will select from the following methods for controlling competing vegetation:

1. No treatment.
2. Nonherbicide.
3. Ground-applied herbicide.
4. Aerial-applied herbicide.

The department will consider the no treatment method first and then move sequentially down the list. The department will select the first method on the list which is both effective and produces an acceptable return on investment. A method lower on the list may be used only if it substantially outperforms other methods.

#### Policy No. 34: Fertilizing, Thinning and Pruning

The department will use fertilization, thinning and pruning on stands which will respond and produce an acceptable rate of return on investment.

##### 2.14.4 Implementation

There are six implementation policies. A discussion of the alternatives is contained in Chapter 6. For more background information, see Chapter 6 of the Forest Resource Plan.

#### Policy No. 35: Public Involvement

The department will solicit comment from the public, tribes and government agencies when implementing the Forest Resource Plan and when revising policies contained in the document.

#### Policy No. 36: Implementing the Forest Resource Plan

The department will attempt, within budget constraints, to meet the key elements in each of the policies described in this Plan.

Policy No. 37: Monitoring the Forest Resource Plan

The department will monitor the Forest Resource Plan's implementation to determine whether its policies are being executed efficiently and to measure the success of the plan in meeting its objectives.

Policy No. 38: Modifying the Forest Resource Plan

The department will seek permission from the Board of Natural Resources to modify certain portions of the Forest Resource Plan if changes in law, scientific practice, major public attitudes or new management directions require a different course of action not compatible with the policies contained in the plan.

Policy No. 39: Consistency with Other Plans

The department will review its other management and policy plans and will compare those with the Forest Resource Plan. Where policies overlap and where there is apparent conflict in direction, the department will determine precedence and suggest changes to the Board of Natural Resources for resolving these differences.

Policy No. 40: Research

The department will conduct applied research to monitor and evaluate silvicultural activities, test current practices and, where appropriate, initiate a process for change. The research will focus on issues relating to protection and conservation as well as forest production.